

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 01722 041759Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01
AGRE-00 STR-04 CEA-01 /079 W
-----042105Z 025563 /63

R 041226Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
USMISSION MTN GENEVA
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION OECD PARIS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1722

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, ECON, PO

SUBJ: PORTUGAL'S APPLICATION FOR EC MEMBERSHIP

1. ECON COUNSELOR MET EVENING OF MARCH 3 WITH KEY GOP
OFFICIAL TO DISCUSS PORTUGAL'S CAMPAIGN TO JOIN THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY. LATTER ASSERTED THAT GOP IS GENUINELY PLEASED BY
RESULTS OF RECENT SOARES VISIT TO SEVERAL EC CAPITALS.
PORTUGUESE WERE SURPRISED BY UNEXPECTED WARMTH OF RECEPTION
IN IRELAND AND ITALY. THEY RECOGNIZE THAT THOSE CORDIAL
RECEPTIONS MASKED SOME UNDERLYING OPPOSITION, SUCH AS THAT
OF ITALIAN AGRICULTURAL MINISTER, AND SOME DESIRES TO GAIN
COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGE FROM PORTUGAL'S MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION,
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E.G. FRENCH EFFORTS TO TRADE ITS SUPPORT FOR INSTALLATION
OF FRENCH COLOR TV SYSTEM AND FRENCH AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY
IN PORTUGAL. GOP OFFICIALS BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT EC
MEMBERS WILL EVENTUALLY TAKE POSITIVE POLITICAL DECISION
THAT WILL, TO A LARGE EXTENT, OVERRIDE THESE COMMER-
CIAL CONCERNS.

2. GOP, THE PORTUGUESE OFFICIAL CLAIMED, ANTICIPATES THAT GAINING FULL EC MEMBERSHIP WILL PROBABLY REQUIRE ELEVEN YEARS. SOARES PLANS TO PRESENT FORMAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION IN LATE MARCH. HE EXPECTS EC TO RESPOND IN EARLY 1978 BY DECIDING TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS FOR PORTUGUESE ACCESSION. THAT DECISION WILL APPARENTLY SATISFY SOARES' DOMESTIC POLITICAL NEEDS. GOP ANTICIPATES THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD LAST APPROXIMATELY FIVE YEARS, DURING WHICH TIME PORTUGAL WOULD BEGIN HARMONIZING ITS INSNTIORIF#PROCEDURES WITH THOSE OF THE EC. UPON CONCLUSION OF THE FIVE-YEAR NEGOTIATING PERIOD, PORTUGAL WOULD EXPECT TO BECOME A FULL MEMBER, BUT WOULD, FOLLOWING BRITISH EXAMPLE, HAVE AN ADDITIONAL FIVE YEARS FOR TRANSITION TO FULL RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF EC MEMBERSHIP.
CARLUCCI

NOTE: # AS RECEIVED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LISBON01722
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770075-0783
Format: TEL
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770393/aaaaddxo.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3209264
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PORTUGAL'S APPLICATION FOR EC MEMBERSHIP
TAGS: ECON, PO, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/02c2adbd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009